Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-26. (cancelled)

27.   (new) A computer-based method of scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising:

(a)   receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

(b)   receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

(c)   updating a master schedule, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

(d)   requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

28.   (new) The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises indicating in the master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and step (d) further comprises requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

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29.　(new)　The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and step (d) comprises:

(1)　requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

(2)　receiving a result from the first computer; and

(3)　requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

30.　(new)　The method of claim 27, wherein step (d) further comprises:

(1)　monitoring the load of the first computer;

(2)　monitoring the load of the second computer; and

(3)　adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

31.　(new)　The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and further comprising adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

32.　(new)　The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

33.　(new)　A system for scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising of a scheduling computer networked to a first computer and a second computer, wherein the scheduling computer comprises:

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receiving means for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

receiving means for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

updating means for updating a master schedule, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

34.   (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises indicating means for indicating in the updated master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and the requesting means further comprises requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

35.   (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises indicating means for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the requesting means comprises:

requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

receiving means for receiving a result from the first computer; and

requesting means for requesting the second computer to execute the second

program if the result meets the criterion.

36.   (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the requesting means further

comprises:

monitoring means for monitoring the load of the first computer;

monitoring means for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

adjusting means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of

the first computer and the load of the second computer.

37.   (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further

comprises assigning means for assigning a first priority to the first program and a second

priority to the second program; and the requesting means further comprises adjusting

means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the

second priority.

38.   (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further

comprises accepting means for accepting at least one command from a user to define the

updated master schedule.

39.   (new) A computer program product comprising a computer useable

medium having computer readable program code means embedded in the medium for

causing an application program to execute on a computer that schedules executions of

programs on a plurality of computers comprising:

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a first computer readable program code means for receiving a first notification

from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

a second computer readable program code means for receiving a second

notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the

second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from

the operating system of the first computer;

a third computer readable program code means for updating a master schedule,

wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed

on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second

computer; and

a fourth computer readable program code means for requesting the first computer

to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second

program according to the updated master schedule.

40.   (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable

program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means

for indicating in the updated master schedule that the execution of the first program

depends on a condition; and the fourth computer readable program code means further

comprises a sixth computer readable program code means for requesting the first

computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

41.   (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable

program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means

for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program

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depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises:

a sixth computer readable program code means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

a seventh computer readable program code means for receiving a result from the first computer; and

an eighth computer readable program code means for requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

42. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises:

a fifth computer readable program code means for monitoring the load of the first computer;

a sixth computer readable program code means for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

a seventh computer readable program code means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

43. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means for assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises of a

sixth computer readable program code means for adjusting the updated master schedule

based on the first priority and the second priority.

44.   (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable

program code means further comprises of a fifth computer readable program code means

for accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.